

S-173
Thomas Sudler Farm
Near Westover
Private

c. 1870 and
earlier out-
buildings

The Thomas Sudler Farm (now known as the Bill Messick farm) is architecturally significant due to the survival of two wrought-nail outbuildings which accompany the house. The third quarter of the 19th-century farmhouse was built on the site of an earlier house. A full-dovetailed sawn-log smokehouse with vertical ship-lap siding stood behind the house until May 1984 when it was moved to an adjacent farm. Standing along the farm lane is a bi-level frame barn with a single flanking shed. Interior structural evidence indicates the barn was first used to air cure tobacco, but ^{was} later converted to the storage of grain.

Until the mid 1940s, this farm was owned and operated by the Sudler family, who acquired the property in the early 19th century through Martha Lester, the first wife of William Sudler (married August 6, 1811). Thomas Sudler, son of William and Martha, purchased the farm after his father's death in 1842 (AH 420). Thomas Sudler remained on his father's farm until his death in May of 1881. During his forty-year ownership, he evidently built the present cross-gabled farmhouse on the site of his parents house, while he reused and refitted the old barn. The smokehouse appears largely unaltered. Thomas Sudler devised the farm by will to John E. and wife, Sallie Sudler (SCL S/467), who occupied the property until 1947 (BLB 138/578).

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. S-173

Magi No. 2001735335

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas Sudler Farm

and/or common Bill Messick Farm

2. Location

street & number South side of Maryland 361 (For publication) ___ not for publication

city, town Westover ___x vicinity of congressional district 1

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	___x occupied	___x agriculture
___x building(s)	___x private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	___x not applicable	___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			___ private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bill Messick

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Westover state and zip code Maryland 21871

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Circuit Court liber 172

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 225

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-173

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Thomas Sudler Farm (now owned by Bill Messick) is located on the south side of Maryland 361 .4 of a mile west of the intersection of Maryland 413 at Westover, Maryland. A long dirt farm lane leads to a farmhouse and outbuildings which stand among a grove of mature trees.

Centered in the mowed yard is a c. 1860-1880 two-story three-bay cross-gabled farmhouse which rests on a raised common bond brick foundation and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt tile roof. The exterior of the T-shaped farmhouse is uniformly sheathed with asbestos siding.

The north (main) facade is symmetrically arranged with a center entrance and flanking 2/2 sash windows. A transom and side-lights surround a molded four-panel door. A shed porch covers the entrance bay with the roof supported by champhered posts. Sawn balusters remain between the posts. Two over two sash flank the entrance bay. The second floor is pierced by a sidelighted 2/2 sash window in the center and flanking 2/2 sash. Featured in cross-gable is a pointed 2/2 sash window. The dentiled capitals of the covered corner pilasters remain on each upper corner. One center brick chimney with corbelled cap rises above the roofline. The east stack has been taken down.

The east gable end of the main house has a single story five-sided bay window. The bay as well as the second floor is lighted by two over two sash.

Extending to the rear is a shorter two-story service wing with two-story enclosed shed to the east side. This portion of the house also rests on a raised common bond brick cellar and is covered with asbestos shingles.

Located behind the house is a full-dovetailed log smokehouse with portions of vertical ship-lap siding fastened with wrought nails surviving on all four walls. Three corners of the ten by ten structure are supported by brick piers but a fourth corner (northeast) is still supported by a log slab.

The east side contains the only opening which is a board and batten door of circular sawn lumber and 20th-century strap hinges. Under the tin is a sheathing of wood shingles. The common rafter roof system is supported by a flat false-plate. In turn, the false-plate is supported by the floor joists. Wooden pins drop through the plate and butt-end of joists to stabilize the false-plate. The rafters' feet are fastened with wrought spikes. One tier of collar beams are let into each rafter pair with half-dovetail lap joints and fastened with wrought nails. The rafters are lapped and pinned. Each gable end is framed with a grid of studs and covered outside with weatherboards. All interior elements are smoke-blackened.

Standing northeast of the house is a bi-level wrought-nail frame barn with one surviving shed on the north side. The south shed, according to the owner, was of later date. From a series of sheared nails on the outside face of the interior stud wall, it appears the north shed was a later addition with the original gable front barn consisting of the center rectangular core. Around the mid-19th century, a new floor was added to allow for grain storage. According to the owner, the barn was

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
(?) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Level of Significance: ___ national ___ state ___ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Thomas Sudler Farm (now known as the Bill Messick Farm) is architecturally significant due to the fact that two wrought-nail outbuildings survive on the property. The third-quarter of the 19th-century farmhouse was built on the site of an earlier house. A full-dovetailed log smoke house with vertical ship-lap siding fastened with wrought nails stands behind the house. Standing along the farm lane is a bi-level frame barn with one flanking shed. ~~There are also a number of other outbuildings on the property.~~ The owner, Bill Messick, believes this barn is one of the few tobacco barns standing on the Eastern Shore.

History and Support

Until the mid 1940's, this farm was owned and operated by the Sudler family who acquired the property in the early 19th century through Martha Lester, the first wife of William Sudler. (Married August 6, 1811). Thomas Sudler, son of William and Martha, acquired the farm after his father's death in 1842 (see deed book, AH 420). Thomas Sudler remained on his father's farm until his death in May of 1881. During his forty-year ownership he built the present cross-gabled farmhouse on the site of his parents house, while reusing and refitting the old barn. The smoke house appears largely unaltered; however, the barn was reworked to handle hay instead of its first crops which are thought to have been tobacco. Thomas Sudler devised the farm by will to John E. and wife Sallie Sudler (SCL S/467), who occupied the farm until 1947 (B.L.B. 138/578).

refitted to store hay instead of tobacco. When the middle floor was added, the original floor joists were sawn out to allow for more head room on the second floor. This action sacrificed the original stability of the common rafter roof system. Two tiers of collar beams are let into the rafter pairs with half-dovetailed lap joints. The eave construction for the barn is similar to that of the smoke house with a flat false-plate and pins dropping through the plate as well as the ends of the floor joists.

The other buildings on the property include a wagon shed and a small frame utility building.

CHAIN OF TITLE

Thomas Sudler Farm
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172/275

Matthew and Emille Heinen

to

Charles W. Messick

B.L.B. 138/578

John E. Sudler and wife

to

1/16/1947

Matthew and Emilie Heinen

"The main body of said farm having been described in 1819 as 'beginning at a marked post standing near John C. Wilson's outgate and on the south side of the county road that leads down Potato Neck. The lands described in items one and two having been devised unto the said John E. Sudler and Sallie J. Sudler by the second item in the last will and testement of Thomas Sudler dated May 10, 1881 (S.C.L. 5/467)

A H 420

Ann Gilless Sudler and Mary Elizabeth Sudler

to

1/4/1843

Thomas Sudler (wife, Sarah Lane Sudler-married Dec. 21, 1840)

\$1,008. - the said described tracts of land whereon Thomas Sudler now lives which we claim from our Mother, Martha Sudler containing 216 acres.

J D 7/68

Thomas Sion Sudler

2/15/1822

to

Ann G. Sudler, Mary E. Sudler, Martha Sudler, Thomas Sudler (children of William Sudler, son of said Thomas Sion Sudler)

"all that tract of land whereon William Sudler now lives which was conveyed to said Thomas Sion Sudler from Thomas Robertson"

J P 5/75

William Sudler's Will proved on September 7, 1842 - wife Elizabeth T. Sudler daughters Ann G. Sudler, Mary E. Sudler, son William C. Sudler, Executor Thomas C. Sudler.

William Sudler

1st marriage to Martha Lester

August 6, 1811.

2nd marriage to Elizabeth Curtis

October 9, 1822.

J D 7/52

Thomas Robertson

2/11/1822

to

Thomas Sion Sudler

\$2,592.00 tract of land whereon the William Sudler
lives which was conveyed to the said Thomas Robertson
from William Sudler and Martha by deed bearing
June 16, 1819 -

J D 5/283

William Sudler and Martha

6/16/1819

to

Thomas Robertson

\$2,592.00 216 acres - all that tract where the James
Benson now lives."

5860 III NE
(MONIE)

435000m E.

436

437

42'30"



S 173 THOMAS SUPER 1972
KINGSTON, MD QUATO



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Thomas Sudler Farm
Near Westover, Somerset County
North Elevation
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Thomas Sudler Farm
Near Westover, Somerset County
South Elevation of Tobacco House
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Thomas Sudler Farm
Near Westover, Somerset County
Barn - West Elevation
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Thomas Sudler Farm

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Near Westover, Somerset County

Southwest Elevation

2/84 Paul Touart

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Thomas Sudler Farm
Near Westover, Somerset County
Barn - South Wall
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Thomas Sudler Farm

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Near Westover, Somerset County

Smokehouse - Southeast Elevation

2/84 Paul Touart

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Thomas Sudler Farm S-173
Westover vicinity, Somerset Co., MD.
Smokehouse - Northeast elevation
11/83, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg./ Md. Hist. Trust



Thomas Sudler Farm

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Near Westover, Somerset County

Smokehouse - West Wall

2/84 Paul Touart

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Thomas Sudler Farm
Near Westover, Somerset County
Smokehouse - Northeast Corner
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Thomas Sudler Farm
Near Westover, Somerset County
Barn Detail - South Wall
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Thomas Sudler Farm
Near Westover, Somerset County
Smokehouse - Eave Detail
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Thomas Sudler Farm
Near Westover, Somerset County
Smokehouse - Southeast Corner
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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Thomas Sudler Farm
Near Westover, Somerset County
Smokehouse - Eave Detail
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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S-173

Thomas Sudler Farm
Near Westover, Somerset County
Smokehouse - West Wall
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust